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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-4401

May 23, 2017

COMMITTEE ON
NATURAL RESOURCES
CHAIRMAN

COMMITTEE ON
ARMED SERVICES

CONGRESSIONAL WESTERN CAUCUS
CHAIRMAN EMERITUS

10TH AMENDMENT TASKFORCE
CHAIRMAN

Dear Secretary Pruitt,

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has imposed a PM 2.5 non-attainment regulation on Box Elder County in my state. The State of Utah had data refuting the EPA's pollution claims, but it was ignored. Other than a cursory fly-over, the EPA did not visit the county on the ground. Box Elder County is my home. Those who live there know the EPA's contention that air pollution originating in Brigham City and flowing to the Wasatch Front is ludicrous on its face. It is clear that the EPA's decision was politically motivated. The non-attainment area only covers a small portion of the county and is not based on science.

This regulation was formulated by the previous administration and it was founded upon flawed science which failed to take into consideration the unique geographical landscape and the close proximity of Box Elder County (a rural county with a population density of less than 7.5 people per square mile) to other more populated areas that generate the majority of the man-made particulate matter in my district. As applied to Box Elder County, this draconian regulation has created numerous problems for my constituents and has hindered the growth and economy of the small cities, towns and unincorporated areas in the county. Prior to the EPA's non-attainment designation, important major industries (including Proctor & Gamble, Nucor Steel and Autoliv) considered Box Elder County a prime location for their business ventures due to the valued work ethic of its citizens. However, some of these businesses have indicated that had the county been subject to the PM 2.5 regulation when they were looking to locate their facilities, they would have looked elsewhere.

During my tenure in Congress, I have worked with the county and various state agencies and officials to provide tangible evidence and sound science to the EPA in this regard. However, the information we have provided has not as of yet been given the full and fair consideration it is due. Moving forward, I would appreciate the opportunity to work with your agency to review this regulation and the ramifications it has imposed on the hard-working constituents in my district.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rob Bishop', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Rob Bishop
Member of Congress